



Dave Heineman
Governor

STATE OF NEBRASKA

Rick Sheehy
Lieutenant Governor
State Capitol, Room 2315
P.O. Box 94863
Lincoln, Nebraska 68509-4863
Phone (402) 471-2256
ricksheehy@notes.state.ne.us

April 27, 2005

County Board Chairperson
County Emergency Management Director,

I wanted to take this opportunity to contact each of you as we enter into distributing the FY2005 Homeland Security funds and give an update on the status of the programs within your individual county. If you have been following the debates surrounding the President's proposed FY2006 budget and the companion legislation coming out of Congress, several themes are emerging that will have a direct impact upon us as a State. There appears to be an attempt to streamline and strengthen the federal bureaucracy by concentrating more authority within the Department of Homeland Security over the overall grant process. This can be seen with the reduction of program money being proposed and the combining of programs like the Homeland Security Grant Program and the Law Enforcement Prevention Program. There definitely will be a shift in the allocation process with funds being distributed on the basis of threat, risk and vulnerability. This will have a direct impact on the total amount of funds we have available in the future program years. I believe we will see performance based standards in terms of response capabilities, training and exercising programs. These standards will impact us as we integrate the proposed three-year Homeland Security Strategy that will govern to a large extent how we carry out our program.

Because of what we see as the emerging trends, there seems to be recognition of the Emergency Management profession as the central coordinating point for Homeland Security/Emergency Management activities. New emphasis is now and will be in the future placed by the Nebraska Emergency Management Agency (NEMA) and the State on the local Emergency Management Director to coordinate and carry out the program at the local level. I would suggest evaluating your local emergency management program in terms of mission, goals and objectives and the job description in relationship to homeland security activities.

Requirements of the FY2004 and FY2005 Homeland Security Grants were to keep the Local Emergency Operations Plan current to the planning standards and schedule of the NEMA, submit a 5 year Planning, Exercising and Training (PET)

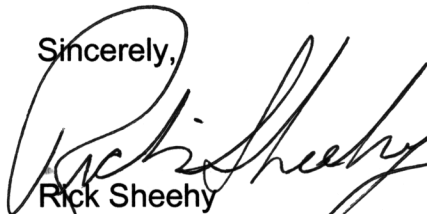
calendar that supported not only the equipment received under the grant programs but also the overall training and exercising program and the receipt of support resolutions from political jurisdictions in each affected county. The first requirement has for the most part not caused a problem at the local level with compliance. The requirement to establish and update the PET calendar is another matter and must be dealt with immediately.

At the current time, only **8 jurisdictions** have met the requirement of having both the 2004 PET calendar, and update for 2005 and the resolutions of support from the local governmental entities within the county. The guidance from the Governor and the Homeland Security Policy Committee is that **no FY2005 funds will be disbursed until all requirements are in place.**

To learn the status of your particular county and progress with meeting the benchmarks, you can go to www.nebema.org and click on the "Homeland Security" tab on the left side of the page and a chart will be posted. If you need assistance or clarification, please contact Mr. Leo Larkin at leo.larkin@ne.ngb.army.mil. Mr. Larkin is overseeing homeland security compliance for local jurisdictions and is a resource to ensure your program is meeting its reported grant activities.

Nebraska will continue to compete at the national level for support for our program. We have received attention for the program we have put into place and it is imperative that we all work together to demonstrate our commitment to homeland security.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Sheehy", written over a horizontal line.

Rick Sheehy
Lieutenant Governor
Homeland Security Director